



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

VOL. I. 1836—1837. No. 11.

Monday, June 19, 1837.

Sir CHARLES LEMON, Bart., M.P., in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were balloted for, and were elected Fellows of the Society :—

John C. W. Lever, Esq., 33, Bridge-House-Place, Southwark.
John Clark, Esq., Assurance Office, Aberdeen.

The two following gentlemen were proposed as Fellows of the Society, and their names were ordered to be suspended in the meeting-room, in accordance with the Society's regulations :—

Christopher Rawlinson, Esq., Temple.
Alfred Latham, Esq., Montague-Place.

The following distinguished gentlemen, having first been recommended by the Council, were balloted for, and were elected as Foreign Members :—

Count Serristori, of Florence.
Councillor Schlieben, of Dresden.
Baron Charles Dupin, of Paris.
Count Gräberg de Hemsö.
Professor Auguste de la Rive, of Geneva.
His Excellency Admiral Greig, of St. Petersburg.
Dr. Julius, of Hamburg.
M. Guerry, of Paris.

A short Abstract was read, prepared by Colonel Sykes, V. P., from a comparative account, by Mr. Langon, of the ages and diseases of 240 miners, and 120 common labourers, in Cornwall.

The statements of Mr. Langon are contained in a report of that gentleman to the Royal Polytechnic Society of Cornwall.

In 240 Miners, taken without selection, there were	In 120 common Labourers, taken without selection, there were
Above 30 years of age 172	Above 30 years of age 93
40 " 94	40 " 68
45 " 57	45 " 63
50 " 29	50 " 57
55 " 17	55 " 48
60 " 8	60 " 35
65 " 2	65 " 27
70 " 0	70 " 14
	75 " 8
Always or occasionally labour- } ing under disease } 89	Always or occasionally labour- } ing under disease } 17
With cough, dispnæa, palpi- } tation } 67	With cough, dispnæa. } 9
Dyspepsia } 17	Dyspepsia } 2
Rheumatism } 13	Rheumatism } 3
Other diseases } 8	Other diseases } 10

It will be observed that the older labourers are much more healthy than the miners, although their ages average near ten years more, and that only one-eighth of the miners have attained the age of 50, while nearly one-half of the labourers have completed or exceeded that age. It was remarked, that the comparatively short existence of these poor men appeared to be attributable to the irksome labour of ascending the innumerable ladders in the mines, which produces chronic bronchitis and dilatation of the cavities of the heart—an evil which strongly appeals to the benevolent to procure the adoption of some mechanical contrivance for its removal or mitigation. Should no such effort be made, it was suggested that it would be the duty of the legislature to provide a remedy for such a serious extent of suffering.

A Paper presented by the Right Honorable Earl Fitzwilliam was explained and laid upon the table. It consisted of some elaborate returns to agricultural queries issued by his lordship.

These returns related to nine different farms, situated in the Isle of Ely, county of Cambridge, and in the liberty of Peterborough, county of Northampton; and forming parts of estates belonging to the Duke of Bedford, Earl Fitzwilliam, and the Marquis of Exeter. The following particulars were stated:—

The Number of Acres of Land in Cultivation, namely,

In Wheat,	In Fallow, Coleseeds,
Barley,	Ditto, Dead,
Oats,	Permanent Pasture, Grazed,
Beans,	Ditto, Mown,
Peas,	Seeds, Grazed,
Clover, Red.	Ditto, Mown,
Saintfoin,	Pared and burned for Coleseed.
Fallow, Turnips,	

The Kind and Number of Implements in Use on each Farm, namely,

Waggons,	Rollers,
Carts,	Thrashing Machines.
Ploughs,	Dressing ditto,
Harrows,	Straw Cutters,
Drills,	Single-Hand Chaff Boxes.

The Number of Live Stock, namely,

Horses, for working in harness,	Foals,
Ditto, for riding,	Young unbroken Horses.
Brood Mares,	

The Number of Cattle, namely,

Bulls,	Calves,
Feeding Beasts,	Young Steers and Heifers.
Cows,	

The Number of Sheep, namely,

Rams,	Breeding Ewes,
Shearlings, Ewes and Wethers,	Young Lambs.

The Number of Swine, namely,

Boars,	Young Pigs,
Sows,	Store Pigs.

The Number of Poultry, namely,

Fowls of all sorts,	Ducks of all sorts,
Geese ditto,	Turkies.

These returns are dated Midsummer, 1836.

The next Paper read was "On the State of Prostitution in the Parish of Lambeth, deduced from inquiries made in January, 1835, at the request of Sir Arthur de Capell Broke, Bart., F.R.S., by H. W. Dewhurst, Esq., Surgeon, &c."

The Paper consisted of a series of circumstantial remarks on various particulars of the condition, habitations, ages, character, diseases, and crimes of prostitutes in this district, and of a tabular exhibition of the numbers of disreputable houses and of the numbers of known prostitutes. It has been found that the greater proportion of these unfortunate females have been originally seduced from the houses of their parents, or from situations as servants; when, having been abandoned by their seducers, they have been turned from their homes or employers, and thus, contrary to their inclinations, have been obliged to embrace prostitution, as the only means of obtaining a scanty subsistence.

The ages of common prostitutes in this parish vary from 15 to about 35 years. Generally speaking, they are very ill informed; their education appears to have been neglected. Many cannot write or read; others read and write very badly. A few possess every mental accomplishment which can adorn the female character; but these have been females moving originally in a high and respectable class of society. An instance was given of the daughter of an episcopal clergyman.

In the habits of the higher and lower classes of prostitutes there is little difference. Those possessing a genteel figure, with a pleasing and captivating address, are generally found well dressed, and board and lodge in the more respectable streets, for which they pay weekly; but the greater number consists of extremely low characters. Both classes are habituated to excessive drinking, and, when quarrelling about real or imagined offences, their language is highly disgusting, and personal violence is mutually inflicted until they are restrained by the police.

The first class of prostitutes seldom leave their habitations for the purpose of enticing visitors, except to frequent the theatres, masquerades, or the Saloon in Piccadilly; at other times they make their appearance, well dressed, at the street-doors or windows of their respective apartments. The second or lower class are com-

mon street-walkers, habituated to every species of intemperance. The chief places of resort for these abandoned characters are the whole extent of the Waterloo Road, the porticoes of the Minor Theatres, Vauxhall Gardens, the Penny Theatres in the neighbourhood, the Asylum Road, Lambeth, London and Kennington Roads, Kennington Cross, and the open space between the Westminster Road and the New Bethlehem Lunatic Asylum.

There are few married prostitutes, compared with those who are single—not more than three or four in thirty. A few maintain their husbands by common prostitution. There are numerous instances of single prostitutes who maintain men by their avocation.

A few have children, which, in consequence of the dissolute and drunken habits of the mothers, are much neglected, and are often seen intoxicated with spirits; though this is perhaps justly attributable, not to any wish to injure their offspring, but to mistaken kindness and ignorance: for these unfortunate members of society are not to be considered as being devoid of maternal affection. Some are extremely fond of children, and many of those having none bestow their caresses upon the offspring of their landladies (most of whom are married women, or have the credit of being so), or on those of their fellow lodgers; and the poor and helpless mendicant, being considered worse off even than themselves, is always sure of receiving a trifle if they possess it.

Abortion is desired, and is sought to be produced; the principal motive being, not antipathy to their children, but the fear of inability to maintain them; and because that, having lost all claims to virtue, they would be an incumbrance in following their vocation. Many have stated that, were they married, their sole happiness would be in their children; and some, who have infants living, exhibit as much maternal affection as the most virtuous mothers.

In consequence of irregular and intemperate habits they are particularly subject to various diseases of the digestive organs, generally of an inflammatory nature; and, during the winter season, from exposure to the night air, and sometimes from being insufficiently clothed, affections of the lungs are very common; few indeed can be said to be constantly free from these diseases; coughs and colds being their almost constant companions.

Remarks were here made on their other characteristic and more dreadful diseases, the extent of which, as exhibited in the hospitals, was stated to be a subject for astonishment and disgust.

Their principal public offence is drunkenness, for which they are often imprisoned; frequent quarrelling and fighting being the consequence: so that very few of any class of prostitutes can boast of not having been before a magistrate for intoxication. Many are confined for short terms at Brixton or Tothill-fields Houses of Correction. Among the lower classes, robberies of ready-furnished lodgings and of their paramours, are of common occurrence; and there exist instances of the establishment (called "a fence") where prostitutes can speedily and quietly dispose of their plunder.

Attempted suicide by cutting the throat, hanging, drowning, or poisoning, is not unfrequent. Many throw themselves from the balustrades of Waterloo-bridge, but very few accomplish their object. Prostitutes, particularly those who are very intemperate, seldom see old age; those who do, generally become brothel-keepers. When a death occurs, the corpse is generally interred by a subscription, collected from house to house, when sums from 1s. and upwards are frequently and willingly given by the survivors in misfortune; and the funerals are thus, among at least the first class, very decently conducted; the body being sometimes accompanied to the grave by mutes and feathers.

As the prostitutes in this parish mostly reside in the neighbourhood of the theatres, public-houses, and shops for the sale of food, many tradesmen of these classes live solely by their custom. Hairdressers, in particular, would be ruined by their removal. The respectable private inhabitants residing in the Waterloo-road and adjacent streets severely complain of prostitution as a nuisance; but objections are not generally made by the tradesmen.

There are instances of several members of the same family who maintain themselves and parents by prostitution.

From inquiries made of respectable tradesmen, as well as of poor-rate collectors, it appears that prostitution is on the increase rather than otherwise. The cause, in numerous cases, is want

of employment ; though many would, doubtless, continue in this way of life, from laziness and a love of dress.

None are very attentive to religious duties : however, the church minister or catholic priest is sometimes sent for on the approach of death, which they appear to dread. A few of those who have not forgotten the pious precepts of their youth sometimes read their Bible, but are ridiculed by their sisters in misfortune ; and any attempt to excite their moral sentiments, by reasoning on their way of life, generally produces a desire for leaving off the conversation, as reflection gives a pain to their feelings, which is impatiently removed by having recourse to ardent spirits.

Many of the lodging-houses, as well as the known brothels, are kept by old Jewesses.

It was stated that the number of prostitutes in the parish of Lambeth can never be precisely ascertained, as they are perpetually changing their abodes, removing to and from each side of the Thames, particularly during the seasons of Astley's Amphitheatre and the Vauxhall Gardens ; but from numerous inquiries made of lodging-house keepers, prostitutes, tradesmen, policemen, tax-gatherers, &c., the number stated in the tables which accompanied the Paper was said to be pretty accurate. These tables exhibited, in separate columns, the name of the street or place, the number of improper houses, the number of known prostitutes, their average ages, the number of lodging-house keepers supported by prostitutes, and the number of men who subsist at the expense of prostitutes.

The total number of improper houses was stated to be 1,176 ; and the number of known prostitutes 2,033.

The population of Lambeth in 1831 was 87,856.

The next Paper read was an abstract, by Frederick Hill, Esq., of his "Second Report of the Inspector of Prisons for Scotland."

A detailed account was given of about seventy prisons in Scotland, with an enumeration and description of the prisons generally. The state of crime in Scotland was also noticed ; and, with respect to many towns and districts, the results were

given of an inquiry into the operation of some of the chief causes of crime—as drunkenness, the state of the police, the physical condition of the people, the state of education, and the provision for popular amusements. Finally, a statement was added of some remedial measures proposed by the inspector.

Including prisons of every kind, there are at present about 170 in Scotland. Of these about seventy are mere lock-up houses, consisting, for the most part, of only one small room each, frequently forming a separate building, and in very few instances in charge of a resident keeper. Some of them are dark, close, damp, cold, and insecure; and most have one or more of these faults; few having a glazed window, and many no fire-place or other means of warmth. In almost all communication can be kept up with the people on the outside, and spirituous liquors, knives, files, &c., can be obtained. The bedding generally consists of loose straw only, usually contained in a crib, but sometimes lying in a heap on the ground.

The next class of prisons are the small burgh gaols, of which there are about eighty. These, as a class, are considerably better than the lock-up houses; but they are generally quite as unfit for their purposes, considering that the prisoners have to remain longer in them. The burgh gaols (many of which are also used for county prisons) generally form part of the town-house, which is usually an old building, standing on one side of the main street or of the market-place.

The average number of prisoners in each of the small burgh prisons is not more than two or three, though occasionally they are more numerous; but even when there are no more prisoners than rooms the usual practice is to put them together, males being kept apart from females, and criminals generally from debtors. This arrangement is adopted partly to save fuel, and partly because the advantages of separation have not been considered. As respects dryness, ventilation, temperature, and cleanliness, there is every variety; though certainly the general standard is low, and there are many places containing cells entirely unfit for the reception of a human being.

The prison of Inverness, and that of Tain, are more oppressively close than any which the inspector visited; and the Glas-

gow Bridewell is much the largest and much the best prison in Scotland.

The physical condition of the prisoners is in general tolerably good, though it is by no means uniform. In some prisons it is certainly low, owing generally to damp, dirt, or closeness; but in others the prisoners are in very good condition, better than is the case with many honest people. There is but little serious sickness, and but few deaths; and, upon the whole, the health of the prisoners is generally at least as good on their leaving prison as on their entrance.

There is a great variety in the food of the prisoners. With the exception of the highest class of prisons, a money-allowance is, or until lately has been, given. This allowance varies from threepence to sixpence a day. In some prisons a contract is entered into with the gaoler to supply the prisoners with food at a certain rate per head. This rate, like the money-allowance, varies at different prisons from threepence to sixpence, and that without any assignable reason.

Where the allowance is paid in money, or where the gaoler supplies by contract, additional supplies from without are generally permitted; but this is seldom the case where there is a regular dietary. In these irregular supplies, food of an objectionable kind, including spirituous liquors, is of course often introduced.

Most dissatisfaction appears to exist, and complaints are more frequently made, in those prisons where the food is most expensive, and where the greatest irregularities are permitted. This, to some extent, is explained by the fact that there is no work in these prisons to give the prisoners other subjects for thought and occupation than those of eating their meals, and wrangling about the quantity and quality of their food.

Few of the prisons of Scotland have anything deserving the name of discipline; the prisoners generally pass their time in idleness (either in bed or in lolling about in the day-rooms) and in the corrupting society of their companions: they are seldom required to attend to their personal cleanliness, seldom obliged to observe silence and order, and seldom receive any instruction.

Where the prisoners are separate, and fully occupied, they are under little temptation to break through any reasonable rule, or indeed to commit offences of any kind; and, in point of fact, in the Glasgow bridewell, and in the bridewells of Aberdeen and Paisley, together with the prison at Ayr (in all of which work and separation exist), there are few offences and but little punishment. And the separation which tends so much to this result is attained without any great depression of the spirits of the prisoners, and certainly without destroying their health, for the inmates of these prisons are more healthy than the generality of other prisoners in Scotland.

The usual kinds of work in the best of the Scottish prisons are hand-loom weaving, picking oakum and worsted waste, winding weft, spinning, sewing, shoemaking, and tailors' work.

It fortunately happens, as respects prison discipline, that a good system is essentially economic; the very means for the reform of the prisoner being such as tend, on the one hand, to save expense, and, on the other, to make the prisoner a productive labourer. Those prisons in Scotland in which the best system is maintained for the real welfare and reformation of the offender are the very prisons which are least expensive to society. This is eminently the case with the Glasgow bridewell, which, while it is by far the best prison in Scotland, is also, with one exception (the Paisley bridewell), the cheapest: the average yearly cost of a prisoner in the Glasgow bridewell, including his share of salaries, repairs, and all other expenses (except that nothing is put down for rent), being only 3*l.*, or about 2*d.* a day; whereas the average yearly cost of a prisoner in the Glasgow gaol, where the inmates are idle and disorderly, and where they must necessarily become worse every day of their confinement, is as much as 15*l.* per annum. Were it therefore required to arrange the prisons of Scotland in the order of excellence, they might, with great general accuracy, be placed in the inverse order of their expenses. Taking the prisons at large, the average annual cost of a prisoner, including salaries, repairs, &c., is about 9*l.* 10*s.*; and the whole average annual cost of the prisons and prisoners of Scotland, exclusive of the cost of new buildings, is about 14,500*l.*

The present average number of prisoners in Scotland, including those in lock-up houses, police cells, and prisons of every

kind, is about 1,570 ; namely, about 1,460 criminals, about 30 revenue prisoners, and about 80 debtors. Of the criminals, about 930 are males, and about 530 females. The revenue prisoners and the debtors are almost all males. Most of the prisoners are between the ages of 15 and 30. The total number of prisoners appears to have somewhat diminished during the last two or three years.

The principal evils in the prisons of Scotland, at the present time, are, want of the means of separating prisoner from prisoner, and of preventing intercourse from without ; want of employment, and of a provision for teaching the prisoners a trade or other occupation by which to earn an honest livelihood when restored to society ; want of mental, moral, and religious instruction ; insecurity ; the luxurious diet and life of ease in some prisons, when compared with the food and labour of the lowest class of honest and industrious people ; great expense of many of the prisons ; incompetency of many of the keepers ; want of female officers ; want of the means of inspection ; want of cleanliness and ventilation ; sloth and injury to health induced by the long time the prisoners pass in bed ; and want of a uniform system.

The consequences of this state of things are, first, that in the great majority of the gaols the prisoner, instead of being reformed, or at least improved, becomes worse ; and, secondly, imprisonment, on the present system, is but slightly deterring in its effects on the criminal population generally ; for the present evils in the prisons are most of them of a moral rather than a physical kind, and are therefore little formidable in the eyes of the depraved ; whilst the food—the grand object of interest to a prisoner—is generally better than that of many honest people out of prison, to say nothing of the freedom from labour, which, to criminals, is generally a great luxury.

It was stated as an obvious fact, that the great bulk of the Scottish people are honest and peaceable, that education has advanced, and that the condition of the people has for a long time been gradually improving, and is now better than at any past period.

A great decrease has evidently taken place in most kinds of

serious offences, and that without taking into consideration a concurrent increase of population. In petty offences, too, when the increase of population is considered, a decrease is almost always observable, and in many instances the decrease is not merely comparative but absolute. Upon the whole, bearing in mind the great increase in the population and wealth of the country, the amount of crime appears to have much diminished.

The following offences have diminished:—murder, highway robbery (which was common sixty or seventy years ago in some of the Highland districts), housebreaking (particularly when accompanied with violence), child-murder, violent assaults, cattle-stealing, and forgery.

In small places the bad members of the community, to a single individual, appear generally to be known. At Kinghorn, in Fife, for example, the population of which is about 1,500, the inspector was informed that there are exactly nine persons who steal; and it is believed that if these nine persons could be got rid of, and vagrants excluded, the town would be altogether free from crime. At Inverness (population about 12,000) there are about sixty resident thieves, thirty of whom are female prostitutes, and from fifteen to twenty young boys and girls. At Perth (population about 20,000) the number of regular thieves is about thirty, besides twenty who steal occasionally. About thirty of these fifty are prostitutes. In East Lothian there are not more than about twelve resident thieves, from ten to twenty-four years of age, in the whole county, the population of which is about 36,000.

Of all immediate causes of crime and offences in Scotland, drunkenness is by far the most potent. A considerable portion even of the thefts are committed under the excitement of whiskey; and the desire of obtaining this liquor is the cause of many others. The means of committing robbery are often afforded by intoxication of the person robbed, particularly in the numerous class of thefts by prostitutes, which include robberies of large sums of money. Assaults are almost invariably occasioned by drunkenness.

It was stated that the inspector's inquiries had very clearly shown that crime is, to a considerable extent, hereditary—that, in

this respect, it greatly resembles pauperism ; which, according to the evidence collected by the Poor Law Commissioners, often proceeds from father to son in a long line of succession—a circumstance which is favourable for its gradual extinction.

In Edinburgh there is much petty crime, but few heinous offences. During the last year there has only been one case of serious robbery, either in Edinburgh or its suburbs ; and in the city (the population of which is about 80,000) there have been only about a dozen thefts, by different degrees of burglary, no one of which has been accompanied with personal violence. No murder has been committed in Edinburgh or its suburbs for at least five years. There has been a great decrease of serious offences in the last ten years, notwithstanding the increase of population.

The following estimate was given of the criminal population of Edinburgh. About fifty young male thieves between the ages of ten and sixteen, and four or five between the ages of twenty and twenty-five ; making together between fifty and sixty male thieves. A great number of public prostitutes, most of whom are under twenty years of age. It was stated that they are generally short-lived, and that about thirteen are common thieves.

The remaining portion of the Paper was occupied with numerous details of much interest and importance relating to particular districts, especially those of the Northern Highlands.

A notice from the Council was read, as follows :—

“ The frequent application made by members of the Society to the Assistant Secretary for information as to published statements on points of statistical inquiry have shown the utility of constructing a general classed index to all published works and documents containing any available materials. Mr. Deverell has accordingly laid before the council some suggestions on the subject, and has been instructed to proceed in the preparation of such a document, as being likely to offer great facilities for reference, not only to works written expressly on each department of statistics, but to all the statistical statements given incidentally in any other works, and especially in the various periodical publications. Each item will be entered under its proper class and subdivision, and

every facility for reference will be furnished by various re-entries, a separate index of authors' names, &c. Many materials have already been accumulated from book-catalogues, and numerous notes have been taken of incidental matter in various works. The object of the present notice is to solicit the assistance of the members in contributing any information they may possess, either of books or passages in books, all which, if communicated to the Assistant Secretary, will be registered under their respective heads. Indeed, it is only by the co-operation of the Fellows of the Society that a work so extensive and laborious can be accomplished with the requisite completeness."
